



This Week in Ohio EMA



Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director
Ohio EMA Public Affairs (614) 799-3695 www.ema.ohio.gov

February 8, 2008

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Northern Ohio Floods Again - Governor Visits Flood Zones of Findlay and Ottawa

Heavy rains, thunderstorms and high winds inundated Ohio on Monday and Tuesday, resulting in downed trees, nearly 1,600 power outages reported, massive flooding and more than 90 state and U.S. route road closures throughout the state. The National Weather Service issued a flood warning for all of northern Ohio.

By Thursday, February 7, five northwestern Ohio counties declared local emergencies: Auglaize, Defiance, Hancock, Henry, Mercer, Putnam and Seneca. Hancock, Putnam and Seneca counties were federally declared in August 2007.

Governor Ted Strickland, ODPS Director Henry Guzmán, Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani and other key officials toured Findlay and Ottawa to see first-hand the flood devastation. As the governor flew over the flooded areas he said it was traumatizing to see how many families have been affected.

Local officials will conduct preliminary damage assessments over the weekend.

Ohio EMA encourages residents and business owners to notify their county emergency management agencies of any damage caused by the floods or severe storms.

Also, homeowners, renters and business owners who received federal disaster grants and loans from the August 2007 floods may have flood insurance coverage that may provide funds to assist with damages caused by the present flooding. State and county EMA staff should encourage citizens to call the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) at 1-800-638-6620 for claims and customer service information. Coverage provided through the NFIP does not require a federal/presidential declaration to be available.

The Ohio Emergency Operations Center provided round-the-clock partial activation in response to the flooding. Three Ohio EMA field liaisons were dispatched to support the affected counties/local EMAs.



Flooding on the Grand River - Photos by (Lake County) Painesville resident Laurie Colon / Posted on www.wkyc.com

Homeland Security Current Threat Level: **ELEVATED** - Significant risk of Terrorist Attack
HIGH (or Orange) for Aviation Sector

ELEVATED

Ohio EMA Monthly Report Entries

(from January 9 to February 5, 2008)

Radiological Transportation - Cobalt Shipments

The Westerville Irradiator Sterigenics Facility safely completed two shipments of radioactive Cobalt 60 (to and from the facility and Canada) last month. Approximately 750,000 curies of fresh Cobalt 60 arrived at Sterigenics Monday morning, January 28, from Canada, and approximately 60,000 curies of used Cobalt 60 Sterigenic for return to Canada that evening.

Cobalt 60 is used primarily to sterilize medical equipment at the facility. Cobalt 60 needs to be replenished once or twice a year to retain potency for effective irradiation.

Contact the Ohio EMA Radiological Branch at 614-799-3822 for additional information.

State EOC/JDF Tour for Canadian Consultants

Ohio EMA Technical Support Division personnel conducted a tour of the Ohio Emergency Operations Center/Joint Dispatch Facility last month for a group of design consultants from Canada. The EOC's design parameters were reviewed and discussed for a proposed emergency operations center in Ontario.



Columbus - Ohio EMA's Readiness & Response Branch Chief James Dwertman (center) instructs Jon Kochis, Fairfield County EMA director (back) and Lisa D'Allessandris, Clark County EMA acting director on the OpsCenter program - software used in the state Emergency Operations Center. Kochis and D'allessandris worked the afternoon shift of the field liaison work station on February 8, during the Northwest Ohio flood incident. (Ohio EMA photo)



2007 Overall State Winning Poster
Artist: Alexa Day, 6th Grade
Heath Middle School, Licking County

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA) sponsors an annual statewide poster contest where students in first through sixth grades and individualized education classes create posters that show how people can prepare for and protect themselves from severe weather in Ohio.

Complete poster contest rules and registration forms are available on the OCSWA Web site at:

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

Mark your calendars:
National Flood Safety Week:
March 17-21, 2008

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 23-29.
Statewide Tornado Drill is Wednesday, March 26 at 9:50 a.m.

EMA Updates

Pam Gibson, Field Liaison (01/21)

Lateral transfer from Ohio EMA's
Training & Exercise Section
Office Phone: (614) 799-3830
E-Mail: PMGibson@dps.state.oh.us

Stacie Kitchen, Business Manager (02/04)

Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Office Phone: (614) 889-7175
E-Mail: SLKitchen@dps.state.oh.us

Lake County Emergency Management
Larry Greene, Director
8505 Garfield Road, P.O. Box 480
Mentor, OH 44061
Office Phone: (440) 350-5499
E-Mail: Larry.Greene@lakecountyohio.gov

*Emergency Management
Association of Ohio*
Web Address: www.emaohio.org



**Job Opportunity:
Director of Franklin County
Emergency Management
and Homeland Security**

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security has contracted an executive search service to assist in hiring of a new director.

The search process will begin shortly. The position will be posted on various sites, including the Franklin County EM & HS site:

www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs/.

Interested candidates can e-mail their resumes to Bonnie Scafaro, Hudepohl & Associates senior consultant, at bscafaro@hudepohl.com or Andrea Chadwick, senior consultant, at achadwick@hudepohl.com.

The Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security executive board intends to have a new director in place by June 2008.



Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week

March 23-29, 2008

Statewide Tornado Drill: Wednesday, March 26 at 9:50 a.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
CERT-100 Train-the-Instructor Richland County				Valentine's Day		
17	18  Presidents Day	19	20	21	22	23
		HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA		
24	25	26	27	28	29	March 1
				Bomb TAC ODOT Conf Rm B		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Recovery from Disaster Course Ohio EMA				

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training> - TAC - Technical Advisory Committee